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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 701212



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 12 December 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

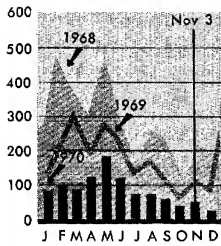
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

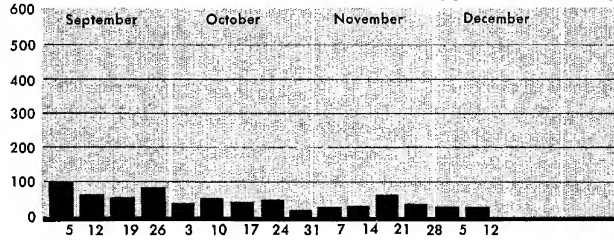
Weekly average for each month



SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1970

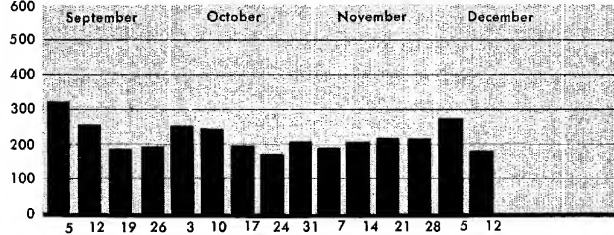
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



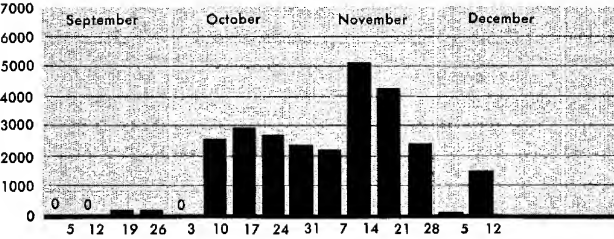
remained at 27--the same as last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



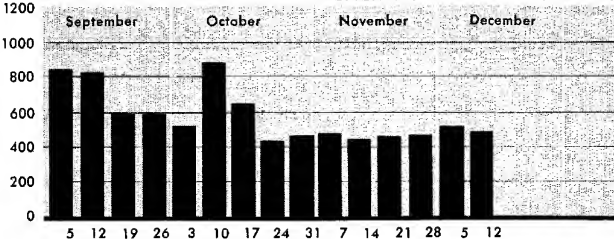
dropped to 184 from last week's 267, reflecting the lower level of combat activity. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



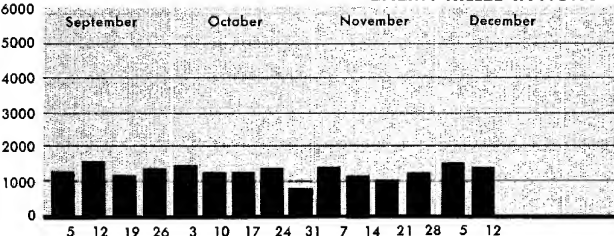
stand at three battalion-size groups, with a combined strength of nearly 1,700. This raises the total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 to an estimated 26,500 - 29,000.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



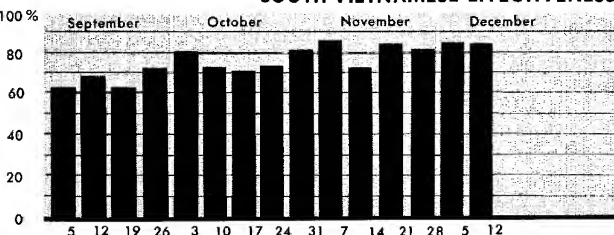
decreased to 507 from the 528 of last week.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



declined to 1,351 from last week's 1,425.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces decreased slightly to 85% from last week's 86%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, significant enemy activity declined in almost all areas. The Communists, however, are apparently beginning to react to friendly sweep operations in the U Minh Forest in the Delta by increasing their combat activity there.

The military situation in Laos remained relatively quiet during the week, but enemy attacks are expected in the near future in both the north and south. Friendly forces on the spoiling operation against Ban Ban in the north are now moving closer to the logistics complex which is their primary target and have yet to encounter significant enemy resistance.

In Cambodia, the Communists continued to thwart the government's cautious efforts to reopen sections of three important highways. A series of strong enemy attacks on government forces in southern Kompong Cham Province has apparently resulted in the Cambodian's worst setback since activity increased in that area last month. Cambodian forces, however, have recaptured a town on Route 6 and South Vietnamese troops have arrived at Kompong Cham city and launched an operation designed to clear Route 7 west to Skoun. Meanwhile to the southwest, government troops remained pinned down on Route 4 with Phnom Penh beginning to feel the effects of the enemy's interdiction of this vital connection to the port of Kompong Som.

Enemy Infiltration

After a brief and as yet unexplained lull, infiltration toward South Vietnam has resumed. Three battalion-size groups, with a combined strength of some 1,700, were detected during the week -- the first Vietnam-bound groups to be detected thus far in December. Should the apparent low rate of infiltration continue for this month, the total input for December would be substantially lower than for October and November. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 now stands at an estimated 26,500 - 29,000.

South Vietnam Developments

The relative calm of the past two months on the domestic front was broken last week as militant students and associated radical elements moved to exploit the fatal shooting of a Vietnamese youth by a U.S. soldier in Qui Nhon. The student movement has been badly divided, and its leaders (some of whom are almost certainly Communist-influenced) apparently hope to use anti-Americanism aroused by the incident to overcome their differences and rouse their followers against the government. Although incidents will probably continue this week, the authorities are acting with restraint and appear to have the situation well in hand.

The GVN has decided in principle to release sick and wounded NVA prisoners during the coming holiday season. The Foreign Office is seeking the President's approval for a preliminary announcement at Paris on 24 December, with repatriation to take place on 24 January in time for Tet. About 33 NVA PW's are involved. The government also plans to release or reclassify to rallier status some 950 Viet Cong prisoners.

Communist Developments

In addition to taking active military countermeasures, Hanoi has further reacted to the recent U.S. air strikes by initiating a propaganda campaign that asks for heightened efforts to rebuff U.S. activities against the North, increased performance on the part of all sectors of the populace, and a call to fight on in South Vietnam. The appeal makes the usual points in rejecting the notion of a U.S.-DRV understanding and charges that the U.S. is planning "new military adventures" against North Vietnam and is bent on preventing the Paris talks from progressing.

The nature of the latest Hanoi statements and actions reflects the Communists' anger at the events of

late November. They also publicly commit the regime to contesting U.S. overflights and future air strikes. At the same time, these official statements and actions are intended to stimulate the North Vietnamese into greater efforts in support of the Party's overall war policies.

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